

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /156 W

-----021315 241800Z /43

R 241644Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3529

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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PASS: COMMERCE, NOAA/WALLACE, NMFS/BLINDIN

STATE FOR OES/OFA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, NEAFC

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL

COOPERATION IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES,
LONDON FEB. 20 - MAR. 3, 1978.

1. CARDOSO OF PORTUGAL WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE WITH NORWAY AND PORTUGAL FIRST AND SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY. AFTER THE ELECTION MOST DELEGATES GAVE OPENING STATEMENTS GENERALLY EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE E.E.C. ZEROED DIRECTLY ON THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, THE VOTING SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE ADOPTED IN THE NEW ORGANIZATION. THE SOVIET UNION PROPOSING A ONE VOTE FOR EACH CONTRACTING PARTY AND THE EC FAVORING A WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS A PORTION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATE'S OPENING STATEMENT: "MR. CHAIRMAN, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONFERENCE DECISION ABOUT ITS PARTICIPANTS, THE SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE EEC PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE, BUT SUCH PARTICIPATION OF THE EEC WILL NOT CREATE FOR THE USSR ANY OBLIGATION IN RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY. APART FROM THAT THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AS A CONTRACTING PARTY ON THE SAME FOOTING WITH A SOVEREIGN STATE. TO THIS EFFECT OUR DELEGATION CONSIDERS THAT APPROPRIATE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FUTURE CONVENTION COULD TAKE PART IN SUCH COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF AN APPROPRIATE DECLARATION TO THE DEPOSITARY ABOUT ASSUMING OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS RESULTING FROM THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION WHICH HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ORGANISATIONS.

I SHOULD LIKE ON THIS OCCASION TO OUTLINE THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION ON THE VOTING SYSTEM UNDER THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATION IN THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITIONS OF ALL STATES CONCERNED AND ENSURE THEIR PARTICIPATION ON A JUST BASIS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE ON THE IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES IN THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC. SUMMING UP, THE SOVIET DELEGATION CONSIDERS IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT EACH CONTRACTING PARTY SHOULD HAVE ONE VOTE IN FUTURE NEAFC."

3. THE E.E.C.'S DELEGATE OPENING STATEMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: "AS A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION TO MY COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I

SPEAK ON BEHALF NOT ONLY OF THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION BUT
ALSO OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
COMMUNITY. THIS ARRANGEMENT REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY'S

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COMPETENCE FOR EXTERNAL FISHERY RELATIONS WHICH ALSO IMPLIES THAT ITS PARTICIPATION IN A NEW CONVENTION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEMBER STATES.

IN OUR VIEW THE ONLY MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WERE LEFT OPEN IN THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WERE THE VOTING SCHEME AND THE SCHEME FOR DETERMINING THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES.

AS REGARDS THE VOTING RULES THE COMMUNITY FINDS IT UNREASONABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE THAT ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES BE GIVEN THE SAME VOTING POWER INDEPENDENT OF THEIR ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE FISHERIES WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONVENTION. THE DIFFERENTIATION OF THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES IS ALSO RECOGNISED BY THE PROPOSED RULE FOR DETERMINING THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING PROPOSED THAT THE VOTES BE WEIGHTED IN PROPORTION TO THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. IN OUR VIEW THIS RULE STRIKES A FAIR AND REALISTIC BALANCE BETWEEN INTERESTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES.

IN THE NOVEMBER MEETING SOME DELEGATIONS WHILST ACCEPTING THE PRINCIPLE OF A WEIGHTED VOTE PROPOSED THAT THE WEIGHTING BE FIXED FOR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS, SUBJECT TO REVISION IF SO REQUESTED BY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES.

MY DELEGATION COULD ACCEPT THIS ALTERNATIVE. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE INITIALLY FIXED VOTING POWER UNDER THIS SCHEME WOULD HAVE TO BE REVISED IN EACH YEAR DURING WHICH THE NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES INCREASE BY ACCESSIONS."

4. DURING THE FIRST WEEK THE CHAIRMAN LED THE CONFERENCE THROUGH TWO COMPLETE READINGS OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED
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CONVENTION. MINOR CHANGES WERE MADE IN SEVERAL OF THE ARTICLES HOWEVER, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT POSITIONS ON THE VOTING ISSUE HAD HARDENED WITH NEITHER SIDE BACKING DOWN FROM THEIR POSITION. THE SCANDANAVIAN BLOC INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY FAVORED THE ONE VOTE PROPOSAL THEY WERE FLEXIBLE AND COULD ACCEPT THE E.C.'S WEIGHTED VOTE PROPOSAL.

5. SHOULD THE ONE VOTE PROPOSAL PREVAIL AN INTERESTING SITUATION COULD DEVELOP IN THE COMING YEARS. THE EAST-

BLOC WILL HAVE FIVE VOTES (USSR, GDR, POLAND, BULGARIA, CUBA). IF AND WHEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL JOIN THE E.E.C. THEIR TWO VOTES WILL BE LOST TO THE E.E.C., LEAVING FOUR COUNTRIES, ICELAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND FINLAND WHO COULD EASILY SWING THE BALANCE EITHER WAY. IF THE E.E.C.'S WEIGHTED VOTE PROPOSAL PREVAILS THE E.E.C. WILL EASILY REMAIN IN CONTROL.

6. DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES WILL BE ANXIOUSLY WATCHING FOR ANY RELAXATION IN EITHER OF THE TWO POSITIONS SO THAT A NEW CONVENTION CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.
BREWSTER.

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